

Eliminating Achievement Gaps for all Students in Kentucky

VISION

Kentucky has moved beyond having disabled, limited English proficient, African American, male, socio-economically disadvantaged or state agency students that are categorically unsuccessful learners. The state has eliminated achievement gaps among these student populations because all students learn at high levels, every teacher works to assist every child, attention is given to each individual student, holistic systems and approaches to serving all students prevent any student from getting lost, and the expectation of success for all students is commonplace among all students, teachers, leaders, and communities.

MISSION

To accomplish this goal, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) must dispel myths and attitudes, change beliefs through practice, and foster collective efforts to eliminate any and all achievement gaps through:

- Taking a set of actions with partners;
- Examining internal practices;
- Providing extensive supports to districts and schools in meeting the needs of all students; and
- Effectively communicating what we believe and expect for all students.

ACHIEVING THE TASK

KDE recognizes and acknowledges that eliminating achievement gaps for all children is a huge task that involves challenging assumptions and practices and tackling the notion that the problem is caused by "the child" as opposed to adult practices; however, it is a direction we must take to ensure proficiency and beyond for each and every child. The task is daunting and presents many unique issues; however, we are given an advantage by schools and districts that have accepted the challenges and have begun to successfully eliminate or close these gaps.

Eliminating these gaps is also an extensive task with many steps and a long range; therefore, we have selected below the actions we will strategically take over the next *two years* that we believe can have the most impact. These activities and strategies will be the collective work of all KDE staff and will be led by those individuals involved in the achievement gap work (highly skilled educators, district support facilitators, achievement gap coordinators and other KDE staff).

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing information on leveraging human and fiscal resources• Providing tools and questions that challenge all staff to address the needs of all children	
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